



City of New Carrollton Earth Year 2020

12 Acts of Green



1. Properly dispose of your appliances. We know this seems random, but it's one of the most impactful things you can do for the environment. Air conditioners and refrigerators run on hydro fluorocarbons, a refrigerant that releases tons of carbon dioxide when not properly removed. So don't leave your old mini fridge on the side of the road...like we did that one time in college when we didn't know better; call **New Carrollton Public Works** at **301-577-1008** to make arrangement for a Wednesday Bulky Pick-up!

2. Shop bamboo. You may already know about 100% bamboo toilet paper rolls, but bamboo can do a lot more than just make a softer experience! It can make furniture, bicycles, boats, baskets, fabric and almost every part of your house. Bamboo is technically grass, so it repopulates quickly, and it is a super sustainably harvested material. In fact, bamboo takes carbon out of the air faster than nearly any other plant.

3. Go for a walk. If we all traveled by foot instead of by car for just 5% of our outings, we'd save 2.6 gigatons of carbon dioxide by 2050. That's over 2 billion metric tons, or the mass of 14 billion elephants! Walk whenever possible, for your overall wellness and to reduce single occupant trips.

4. Take mass transit. Too far to walk? Too rusty on a bike? Take advantage of public transportation! If mass transit accounted for 40% of urban travel, we'd save 6.6 gigatons of carbon dioxide by 2050. If a car is truly your only option, try carpooling or using ridesharing apps.

5. Buy less clothing. Worldwide, 80% of used textiles end up in a landfill. Fast fashion is a very real threat to the environment, so try to only buy the things that you truly need and love. Even better, buy second-hand to break the cycle of over-consumption. After all, a healthy planet never goes out of style.

6. Take shorter showers. Trimming two minutes off your shower time can cut your water usage by 10 gallons. Try getting wet, turning off the water to soap up, and back on again to rinse.

7. Install a low-flow shower head. You probably won't notice the difference, but installing an efficient shower head can reduce your water usage by 2,700 gallons per year.

8. Wash your clothes only when necessary. You might get two days out of that sweatshirt if you are just knocking around the house. Wash full loads, and use cold water, warm water, or a eco-warm water setting if your machine has it.

9. Fix leaky faucets. A faucet or shower head that drips 60 drips per minute wastes 5 gallons of water a day (2,082 gallons per year). And if it's hot water, it wastes energy as well.

10. Pack your lunch in a reusable bag. The choices are nearly endless. Certainly, you can find something that expresses your opinion or otherwise reflects your personality. Here are some examples:

<https://amazon.com/s?k=reusable+lunch+bag>

11. Use cloth towels. If you approach your cloth towels and napkins conscientiously, cloth is the greener option. Some say that washing cloth must be more energy-intensive than using paper, but electric dryers are actually twice as energy-efficient as the manufacture of paper towels.

12. Support products, services, & companies that value the environment. Did you know that just 100 companies have been the source of more than 70% of global industrial greenhouse gas emissions since 1988? Fifty of them, unsurprisingly, are fossil fuel companies. Another list ranked 890 corporations based on seven priorities to see who was doing right by America - take special note of who ended up at the bottom of the list. <https://justcapital.com/rankings/>